

## **A Vision of Maine's Future**

**The people of Maine want the state to be a place with a high quality of life offering:**

1. A diverse, stable, and flexible economy that is nurtured with respect for Maine's traditional way of life and provides choice, opportunity, and support for all who wish to work;
2. Secure, good paying jobs where workers can take pride in the goods and services they provide and the environments in which they work;
3. Livable, affordable housing efficiently located near their workplaces, schools and necessary services;
4. A system of life-long education that prepares them well for the inevitable changes in work, lifestyles, government, and society;
5. Quality medical care, human services and cultural opportunities accessible to all Maine citizens regardless of age, location or income; and
6. The benefits of new technologies which help solve problems and contribute to the well-being of the people and environment of the state.

**The people of Maine want the state to be a place with strong family and community values based upon:**

1. Individual and institutional emphasis on non-material well-being rather than economic values;

2. Recognition of each individual's inherent responsibility to protect and enhance the quality of life which makes Maine unique;
3. A healthy, open view of newcomers to communities and the state, and the contributions they bring to our community life;
4. A tolerance of diverse lifestyles, beliefs and expression;
5. A commitment to respect and reach out to those who are disadvantaged or have special needs and foster their self reliance;
6. A reaffirmation of the importance of family in caring for children and the elderly;
7. Corporate re-enforcement of the long-term goals of the state and the public interest; and
8. A respect for the interconnectedness of the world as a global community, economically, environmentally, socially, and politically.

**The people of Maine want the state to be a place with continuity in our traditional way of life where:**

1. The population is small in comparison to the overall size of the state, and grows at a pace in balance with the capacity of the state's natural, institutional, and financial resources to accommodate development;

1. Towns feel small and have an atmosphere of informality, heterogeneity, community spirit, and caring and the wilderness feels remote and renewing and offers peace and solitude;
2. Daily existence is relatively simple, low-keyed, and healthy; free from congestion, crime, pollution, and unchecked bureaucracy; and based upon self-reliance;
3. The high quality and diversity of natural and cultural resources and the functioning of natural systems are utilized but not sacrificed for individual economic gain;
4. The landscape is diverse and dominated by the natural environmental and rural countryside, and its scenic beauty, open and undeveloped character, and historic and other special values are protected;
5. Development is concentrated in villages, town and city compact areas, and other appropriate places, and kept relatively sparse and unobtrusive and places where rural, undeveloped, or wilderness character are to be protected;
6. One can gain unfettered access to the vast Maine outdoors, including remote wilderness areas, beaches and open spaces closer to home;
7. Farming, forestry, commercial fishing, and outdoor recreation are actively encouraged, and the resource bases and points of access upon which they depend are protected from permanent conversion to other use.

**The people of Maine want the state to have a system of government that:**

1. Provides basic services and assures that everyone has equal access to such opportunities as decent housing, education and health care;
2. Is responsive to changing conditions and the needs of the people;
3. Is representative of and led by the public interest;
4. Provides opportunity and encouragement to citizens to become leaders and participants in daily government affairs; and
5. Makes decisions as “close to home” as possible.